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Maize Growers Association

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## **Special Thank You Addition Of The MGA Times**

In this special addition of the MGA Times we would like to say a big thank you to John Morgan, Simon Draper and Oli Knowland for the massive contribution they have made to the MGA over the years in their respective roles.



As we announced in our August newsletter, it was with real sadness that this month, the MGA and Creedy Associates said their farewells in providing the day-to-day running of the MGA; as you will know the director of Creedy is John Morgan.

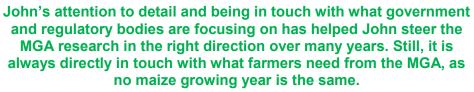




He has visited many countries representing the UK MGA at the annual European maize conference for many years, arranging and hosting it in the UK on more than three occasions.



John has organised MGA tours across Europe, and the members have benefitted from experiencing first-hand new and novel maizegrowing practices across member states that UK MGA members have then put into practice on their farms.





John will be a big miss, but we are fortunate that he has decided to join the MGA council, providing his valuable knowledge and insights to continue to make the MGA the best it can be in the industry.



Written by John Jackson MGA Chairman

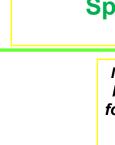




























It is with a sense of sadness and recognition of the passage of a significant period of time that I have the task of reporting that Simon Draper has made the decision to stand down from the MGA council and as a consequence any formal link to the association after what I estimate to be over of 35 years of service. As MGA Agronomist for 30+ years Simon ran the MGA trials program both in a planning and practical sense of the term. He wrote countless agronomy notes and travelled many tens of thousands of miles both within the UK and Europe to attend and often speak at events on behalf of the MGA.

Simon spoke at every conference while MGA agronomist and it is fair to say that many attended just to hear what Simon had to say. His final role at the MGA was as a Council member. My memories of Simon are significant having travelled extensively with him all over Europe. It is no exaggeration to say that you never quite knew where he would turn up with his spade and enthusiasm to captivate anyone who was prepared to listen. Simon was, and I suspect still is, ahead of the game in many ways. He was talking about challenges associated with maize growing before anyone else, he identified the potential of min till maize before its existed in the UK and developed the variety selector and Nitrogen predictor reduce the risk of things going wrong. Simon courted controversy with his determination to push the boundaries on agronomy.

I would challenge anyone to ask a maize grower if they had not heard of Simon, and I'm sure they will all have! We are all very grateful for all that Simon has contributed to the MGA and it is fair to say we will all miss him. We wish him the all very best on his adventures now and in the future.





At the AGM, we also said goodbye to Oli Knowland, who has decided to retire from the council. For the last ten years, Oli has worked tirelessly to support and bring fresh ideas to the MGA trials programme to ensure we continue at the cutting edge of maize research. The MGA wishes you well Oli.

Written by Jon Myhill MGA Agronomist













The strength of the MGA is due to having a very active, enthusiastic council. The lynchpin of the council for many years has been John, Simon and Oli. We want to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and dedication to the organisation and running of the MGA.











